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multiplied 349,621 by 5, the product 1,748,105. He divided 2,608,735 by 4; and answered immediately 652,183. Being given the sum of two numbers, 728, and the difference 16, he was required to find the numbers, and answered 372 and 356. Being asked what factors would produce 765,621, he answered 85,069 multiplied by nine. Being given 877 as one of the factors for the same number, he gave the other 873. These are but a few of many answers, but sufficient to ascertain his wonderful and unaccountable talent.

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*To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.*

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A LETTER TO A LADY ON THE SUBJECT OF HER SON LEARNING LATIN.

**T**his is his season of life for learning languages, and those things which chiefly occupy the memory: this faculty is now in its full perfection with him, and should be fully employed; it is compared to an arch, which is strengthened by the weight laid upon it. In a few years the memory will rather decline, and the judgment ripens, when Arithmetic and mathematics will be in season. I know it is in fashion with many, who do not mean to send their sons to universities, to explode and decry Latin as an useless acquisition. It may perhaps be *unprofitable* in this sense, that it may bring them no money; the concerns of civil life may be transacted quite as well without it; the finest productions in that language are translated into the mother-tongue. French is more essential to accomplish the gentleman, to accommodate the traveller, and is the most universal vehicle of verbal communication. But Latin has been for ages past, and I believe will be for ages to come, (if the world stand) the ground-work of the literary part of liberal education; it is like the root

of all the most refined living languages, and when a foundation is laid in this, the rest are readily learned. In our own tongue, so many thousand words are adopted into our language, and become a part of it, and so many familiar Latin phrases and expressions are constantly used in word and writing, that an ignorance of Latin leaves one much in the dark as to understanding, and like bad spelling, betrays an original defect in one's tuition. An adept in Latin knows as it were by intuition, the powers and fitness of words derived from that fountain, and uses them accordingly. He has an opportunity of reading the finest historians, moralists, poets and orators, in a language to which no language does any thing like justice. Translations compared with such originals are like shadows compared with substance, and like unanimated compared with animated nature.

R. S.

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*To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.*

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GENTLEMEN,  
**Y**OUR Magazine for September last gives an account of an outrage committed by a young man of this county in the townland of Ballyeaston, 15 years ago, the truth of which I have no reason to doubt: yet I think the young man had no premeditated intention of injury in his mind; nor had he any interest in so doing, except to gratify a little idle folly in trying his horse. Had he met with men of so forgiving a disposition as your correspondent P. the matter would never have been spoken of. But your correspondent does not mention a single word of an under-landlord, not far distant from the same townland, who about two years ago made his tenants pay their rents in gold, which increased their rents every fourth penny; gold be-

ing so much more valuable than notes at that time; and for no other reason was this demand made, than because the tenants presumed to choose their own clergyman, contrary to his opinion. Such a gentleman as I have described could not readily be found in the present day, nor in any other, I dare say, except in the reign of Nero. I believe this fact can be authenticat-

ed by too many evidences, as the poor tenants can testify. I had it from a very respectable gentleman residing in the neighbourhood. In such a case as that, your "Ulster independence of mind" must have been as far humbled as it could be in this county, or any other county in the province of Leinster.

A WEXFORD FARMER.

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### BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

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#### BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF MOSES MENDELSSOHN\*, A PHILOSOPHICAL AND LITERARY JEW.

"Philosophy is the purification and perfection of the life of man."

**T**HE national character of the Jewish people has proved so averse to letters, that some persons will not easily believe that they can boast of no concise catalogues of illustrious men. Obsolete, superstitious, hereditary customs, and political oppressions have isolated this

people. Whenever a nation suffers, men are frequently led to think. The Jews have been considered as bold thinkers, but situation sometimes converts bold thinkers into timid men. In this more polished age they have not been without some, whose minds have caught the enthusiasm of fame, and who have breathed a portion of that ethereal

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\* Many of the particulars of the life of Moses Mendelssohn have been extracted from an excellent periodical publication, the *Monthly Repository of Theology and General Literature*. A writer in that work assigns the following motives for publishing the memoirs of a singular character, a philosophical Jew. For similar reasons an enlarged biographical sketch is inserted in the *Belfast Magazine*. "The life of Moses Mendelssohn exhibits a pattern which young persons of a taste and ardour like his, and in similar circumstances would do well to copy. They may hence learn never to distrust the governing Providence of God, never to remit the efforts of which they are capable, never to despise the dictates of an honourable prudence. It is principally with the view of inculcating such lessons as these, that the present memoir of this extraordinary man has been prepared. Another end may perhaps be answered by the perusal of it; the reader may

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have a stronger conviction that moral and intellectual excellence are not confined to particular denominations or sects of men. In the age and nation in which he lived, Mendelssohn was not the only literary Jew. Let the benefits of unrestricted toleration and liberal intercourse be extended to people of all persuasions in religion, and the minds and characters of all will be improved in the highest degree which humanity permits. We have in England opulent Jews, some of whom are occasionally spoken of as patronizing, and some few as cultivating knowledge and the arts. But it is rarely indeed, that any of these or their humbler brethren have appeared with reputation as writers on subjects of general learning or science. There is not one of them who approaches to Mendelssohn. In these circumstances, it is natural to inquire, what cause can be assigned for this difference between the Jewish inhabitants of Great-Britain and those of Germany? The practical solution of the problem can be given by the legislature of the United Kingdom."